

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): There is a decision of our High Court that it will not fall within the category of food.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Whose food is arecanut?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): What I wanted to know is whether that comes within the purview of the definition of food in that Act. It is not a propaganda to ask people to eat it. May I know whether we can take action against people who do this mischief?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): We can include that also if you want.

FISHERIES RESEARCH OFFICER—TERM—EXTENSION OF

217. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) when was the term of appointment of the Fisheries Survey and Research Officer last extended; for what period;
- (b) when was this appointment first made and the number of time its period was extended;
- (c) the reasons for extension and at whose request;
- (d) whether the Government intend sending him for further training; if so, whither;
- (e) the total travelling allowance drawn by this officer from his date of appointment till the end of Kanni 1117; other contingent charges expended for the same period for his office and staff and the total pay (allowance drawn by him during the same period);
- (f) whether he has completed any work entrusted with him for execution when he was appointed?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

- (a) Extended from 1st Vrischigam 1117 for three months.
- (b) Medam 1115. 4 times.
- (c) The period of appointment was first extended, because it was thought that the three months' time originally allowed was too short to complete the investigation. The work could not be completed within this period and the term of appointment was extended for a second time. The third extension was made to depute the officer to Calicut to study

the methods of fish oil extraction in the Government Factory there and also to Malapai to acquaint himself with new methods of catching fish in large quantities by easy means. As the Research Officer could not be deputed as anticipated, the period had to be further extended by 3 months from 1st Vrischigam 1117. The desirability of deputing the Research Officer for training was pointed out by Mr. C. K. S. Moni, M.L.C., and the proposal was accepted by Government.

(d) Vide answer to (c) above.

(e) T. A. of the Research Officer Rs. 318—7—0. Contingent charges Rs. 298—10—9. Honorarium of Research Officer Rs. 846—12—0.

(f) A part of the work has been completed.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether he is working under the Diwan Peishkar?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): When can we expect the work entrusted with him to be completed?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It is not completed now.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA— CONTRACT WITH

218. **Mr. C. R. Iyyunni** (*Trichur-South*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have entered into a contract with the Supply Department, British India, regarding the supply of any articles which are available in Cochin?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon (*Secretary to Government*): No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know whether the head of the Supply Department had not been to Cochin and stayed there for a few days?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon (*Secretary to Government*): There were several officers.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know, Sir, whether our sister State of Travancore has not obtained a number of contracts with regard to the supply of articles when they stayed there?